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1/8/72	Parcel post	Paid		
1	American Half Cents @		13 50	13 50
	Paid by Check			

15 Dec 71

YAY! RSC,

I mailed the last shipment on Dec 9, asking about a coin I had sent you 3 weeks before. On Dec 10 I received your letter, postmarked 'Washington Dec 6' and 'Poughkeepsie Dec 8', containing payment for the 1804 G11. That will explain my question.

Here's the story on Walter Brown and Jefferson. Brown finished his book nearly two decades ago and was paid for the work (never employed by New Netherlands Coin Co). But before the book could be published, enough new information about the subject turned up to make parts of the manuscript obsolete. WB refused to publish until the manuscript were updated; WB refused to update until he be paid above the original price of the book. There it stands. About 5 years ago Jon had acquired a very small number of better half cents (some went to me and later to Rhode, others are scattered) and he became interested in the series aided by WB's catalogue. Both of them would have liked to see the book completed but suddenly you, the usurper, ^{got out to} reports his horizon. Nobody knew who you were, nobody knew whether anyone knew you, nobody knew if you knew anything about half cents. Remember, this sort of thing happened just a few years ago. John Cobb, a half dollar specialist from Mountain View, California had been working steadily on a book about his half dollars, 1807 to 1836. He had the coins and he had enough knowledge to make a reasonable effort. Suddenly it overton usurped the

field by publishing his book. Now Overton may have made a lot of money selling coins and he may have handled some rare ones, but he didn't learn a damn thing about them as they passed through his hands. His first edition is generally agreed to be the worst, most poorly written, poorly organized and even dangerous book to be written on coins in the past few decades. It is so full of omissions, misinformation, errors, crap and miscellaneous bullshit that I'm sure there are a half dozen junior members of the ANA who could collaborate on a better treatment of the subject. Moore wants to see this happen to half cents. I'd rather that no book be published, and I've told you my reasons in earlier letters. But as long as one must appear, then please let it be written, whether by one or by a group, from the state of knowledge of the subject as it stands today. Anyway, Overton's book blew Cobb out of the tub; he sold his coins and got out of the coin business altogether. Green and Hanson don't want WB's book to be ruined by yours, and to that end they refuse to help you.

Green is the only person I know who could write the authoritative work on half cents. Moore has been fortunate enough to possess ^{all} the necessary prerequisites: length of search, access to the coins, shrewdness to assimilate what he sees, and a fine writing style.

Others may surpass Green in one or more areas, but only in one area, with respect to halfcents.

You must have received a lot of help from Munkle and Munson to have copied your numbering system C.M. But where did they learn? Munson got his knowledge from Green directly, or from the 'Hutchinsons' auction catalogues written by Green; Munkle got most of his coins and knowledge from Hanson who learned from Green's manuscript. Even the article on 1804 halfcents which appeared in Penny Wise a couple of years ago was plagiarized by H. Hazebrouk from Green's notes. You can see that all of this springs from the same source.

Oh yes. Overton's story has a happy ending. A couple of collectors got to him and led him through the maze. His second edition constitutes ~~the~~ a most remarkable metamorphosis. It is now a reasonable guide to the series instead of being useful only for its pictures.

I have a lot more to say along these lines and I will clarify what I meant by 'confusing emission sequences with minting signatures' in my next letter. I also have a few more coins to offer to you. Every coin that I have sent you has been careful by me at the time of sending. The 1804 69 was attributed when

I bought it in N. J. a couple of weeks ago. The last similar G1 was also F-15 or so (less sharp but unscratched) priced @ \$250⁰⁰ and called 2nd finest known by Stacks'. It must take some nerve to say that with the Gilbert Plate and Grant Pine photographs staring at them. Oh well, their catalogs are full of out and out lies also, not just the usual overgrading and ignorance.

I'll be sending you a couple of decent 'O's next week.

Be good,
Bill

ROGER S. COHEN, JR.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
4720 MONTGOMERY LANE
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814

PHONE 331-4840

January 9, 1977

Dear Mr. Raymond:

Your very interesting letter of December 15th was received on December 17th. As a bulk of us have had difficulties with our "Victorian" Postal Service:

Your letter is an absorbing document and sheds considerable light on you and your thinking. Perhaps I should not bother to write you, but I feel that since you are a half-cent collector, you should have some knowledge as to why I wrote my book. I am somewhat hesitant to do this as I am not sure you will understand this letter, particularly since I have had no response to my letters concerning what I consider to be the over-response in Hamilton when it comes to collecting artifacts. I also noted in that letter that you and I seemed to be polar apart when it comes to collecting.

I have written you of my interest in half-cent and I believe that I have mentioned that I have known Walter Brown for many years. I first met him in early 1954 in the coin shop of Ben Douglas, who in Washington. He was recommended by Tom Warfield of Baltimore. Douglas had offered me a 1757 large cent when in the commission. The price was \$25.00. I think you can see from this what I was a half-cent collector at that time and was collecting by choice. To be precise, I have been collecting by variety since 1947; Brown at that time was attending Johns Hopkins University. He told me that the 1757 was a good buy and was genuine. I met him later that month at a meeting of the Maryland Numismatic Society in Baltimore. At the meeting he gave me his list of half-cent varieties for me to copy. I still have it today. It is an interesting item. Walter made quite a few errors. And at the time this was his last effort and it was a commendable one. About three months later, I found the 1808/7 new reverse. At the next meeting of the Maryland Numismatic Society I asked him how many reverses were known of the 1808/7. He stated that there was only one. I told him that I had two. He refused to believe me, as he had to see the coin. I didn't have it with me, so he said he would call me when he got to Washington again. In January of 1954 he called me, and I met him at Andrews Field, Maryland where he was spending the weekend with Dick (D. Wayne) Johnson. Johnson was in the air force at the time. He lent over my entire half-cent collection of approximately 1100 varieties. He was very doubtful of my collection, mainly due to its condition, until he picked up the 1808/7. There was an abrupt end to the statement "What was you got here?". I don't think I have ever seen anyone so excited as he was then. He suggested that I write an article about it. I declined, as I felt that Walter Brown was "Mr. Half Cent" and he should be the name. I left the coin with him so he could get it photographed and with thanks. This was done in the December 1954 Washington Telegram. I have previously sent you a copy of this.

In 1966 my interests changed back to half cents. The field of course had changed somewhat but Walter Green was still "The Half Cent". I also noted that after fourteen years the book still wasn't published. This puzzled me as I had always looked on him to turn it out. I now know what happened to a limited degree. Only Walter knows the full story and I don't think any other person knows exactly why the book was never published. I think essentially it amounts to poor business judgment on Walter's part and the fact that he keeps considerable financial himself from his knowledge.

My position on this matter was basically that I wanted a good book on half cents and as late as 1965 I felt strongly that only Walter could carry one out despite his writing style. During the period of 1966-1968 I noted however that when I talked to persons who were interested in half cents, they were confused, and when I started to explain things, they listened. These persons suggested to me that I write the book. I felt reluctant to undertake this at first. After thinking about this for some time I began to realize that if someone didn't do something, nothing would ever be done. In a previous letter to you I outlined the steps that I took, including attempts to establish a working relationship with Walter.

In your letter you state:

"You must have received a lot of help from Munde and Hanson to have called your numbering system (201). But where did they learn? Hanson got his knowledge from Green directly, or from New Britain-Jewett's auction catalogs written by Green; Munde got most of his dates and knowledge from Hanson who learned from Green's manuscript. Even the article on 1804 half cents which appeared in Penny Piece a couple of years ago was plagiarized by H. Neumann from Green's notes. You can see that all of this springs from one lone source."

I would like to inform you of the facts and correct what appears to me to be glaring errors in your thinking. Ray Munde is an extremely perceptive person. He obviously must be to be the competent librarian that he is. In conversation he applies the same professional standards. He has a very extensive library which he reads and absorbs. He is an extremely condition-sensitive collector without being a snob. His "eye" for half cents far exceeds anything I have seen in various articles and auction catalogs by Walker.

Paul Hanson is an extremely well-known numismatist, not only for half cents but for just about any U. S. series from 1793 to 1857. His knowledge is far greater than that of a person who will just paraphrase what he has heard. He is a person who thinks for himself and does not blindly follow the great leader. The statements which you have made in your letter to me indicate an obvious ignorance of these persons or an unwillingness on your part to admit that one person could equal or exceed your master.

The authorship of the book is completely mine. Munde and Hanson served as my critics and they gave generously of their time to make questions and direct any typos as that I might advance. Both of them willingly supplied coins for photography. Other collectors also supplied illustrations and offered support and I have mentioned them on the last page of the book. You and Walter were the only persons who copyrighted completely and sold the printed book.

The use of ENM as the designation of my numbers has done for two reasons: 1. The capital letters C and D are often mistaken in handwriting. 2. Blacksmith Moore and Benson had been so helpful I felt that further recognition of their efforts was a proper thing to do. It also clearly sets forth my numbering system.

On the book it does not checked and it's all over except for possible revisions which will probably be slight. Helzer has now seen the book and I think he was amazed. I enjoyed the Early American Cuppers working on the same goths. I particularly enjoyed one point when Teller said: "I have this information. Why don't you ask me?" I replied, "It was well known I asked you." He made no reply to this but the three other ENI members and were gathered around got the point as all of them were aware of my efforts to establish a working relationship with Helzer.

Now you have the book to read it carefully. Do you now think it's a worthwhile piece of trash as you described Gwynon's first book? I can only let the book speak for itself. I am enclosing a review of the book. William A. L. Smith of Chicago is another half cent collector. You've probably never heard of him. I think you will find that there are many more half cent collectors than you ever imagined. I know I have arrived at this conclusion. At the present moment I am mailing out my orders. With the limited amount of publicity I have had, the mailing is over 125 copies and more are to be ordered and done for to dealers.

I close this long letter now and I hope that in the future you will speak of me as the "Master of Half Cents" rather than the "Wascals."

Very truly yours,

ROGER S. COHEN, JR.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
4720 MONTGOMERY LANE
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014
PHONE 657-2240

February 6, 1972

Mr. W. K. Raymond
567 W. 114th Street
New York, New York 10025

Dear Mr. Raymond:

Many thanks for your letter of January 31 with your comments on my book and for the coins which you enclosed. At the present time I am extremely busy in my office and will be until April 15. Therefore, I will not comment on your comments concerning my book, which, on the whole, I like and appreciate.

I would like to have more comment from you about my book and I wish that you would consider very carefully my Emission Sequence. I am sure you realize that what I have presented in the book is done in a very subtle manner. If you will notice, I don't explain how I arrived at my conclusion. I also very carefully explain that this is a GUESS. The use of two coin presses was only one hypothesis which I used in determining the Emission Sequence. Another hypothesis which I did not mention was that I believe that once a reverse die was put in a coining press it stayed in the press until the die either broke and became unusable or the coinage of the denomination ceased from the press. This is the only question I put to you on your diagram of the early 1804's which you sent me in your letter.

Again, let me emphasize that I would like to have you study what I have set forth. Please write your comments down and let's get together sometime after April 15 and go over the book and discuss the various points which you have made.

In regard to your shipment of January 31, will you please send me individual prices for these coins? Also, have you considered my offer of \$160.00 for the 1806 G-2 (ex Milton Cohen)?

Sincerely yours,

Masker

Dear ROGER,

10 Dec 71

Congratulations on the Half Cent Book. We have needed this for quite a long while as you know better than anyone else.

Gordon Wrubel told me about the whist and Paul M. about the 2nd GAME.

I am always fascinated by die varieties of $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ 1¢, $\frac{1}{2}$ dimes $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars etc. While I can't collect more than my cents I will put the "Book" to good use at shows + coin stores

WRT Smith often calls me and we talk cents. He told me about your book and I decided to get one immediately.

Could you autograph it please?

What ever happened to the book Breen was working on? I had heard that Ford or NN bought it up and haven't for some reason published it. Could be they are using the rarity ratings + CC's to invest in the little sisters.

Hope to meet you some day.

Sincerely,

Darwin

Darwin B. Palmer Jr

DARWIN B. PALMER JR
EAC #68

Roger S. Cohen, Jr.
4720 Montgomery Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

573-3056

INVOICE NO. 34

CUSTOMER'S ORDER

DATE 12/15/71

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Darwin B. Palmer, Jr.
217 W. Broadway, G-34
Columbia, Missouri 65201

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Paid by Check

R. S. COHEN JR
4720 MONTGOMERY LANE
BETHESDA MD. 20014

217 W. BROADWAY G-37
COLUMBIA, MO. 65201

19 JAN 72

DEAR ROGER,

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR LONG LETTER AND THE HALF CENT TEXT WHICH YOU HAVE WRITTEN. I REALLY ENJOYED READING YOUR STYLE AND ORGANIZATION. WAS GLAD TO SEE THE NEW VARIETIES, DIE BREAKS, AND RARITY LISTINGS.

I REALLY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ BUT ENJOY DRAPED BUST CENTS AND LATE DIE STATES SO THE HALF CENTS FIT IN WELL.

PERHAPS I WILL BE ABLE TO SEE YOU IN JUNE. I FINISH SCHOOL HERE AND WILL TRAVEL EAST TO MY ORIGINAL HOME IN WILMINGTON DEL. I PLAN TO THEN GO TO N.C. WHERE MY WIFE'S FAMILY LIVES & YOUR HOUSE IS ON THE WAY.

I BETTER CHECK COIN DEALERS & SHOWS SO NO R6-8's GET AWAY FROM ME. I REALLY LIKE DIE BREAKS AND WON'T LET ANY 1811 or 1826's GET BY ME

AM WORKING NOW ON MY MASTERS THESIS SO I KNOW HOW MUCH TIME AND EFFORT YOU EXPENDED ON YOUR BOOK. WHEN IS YOUR NEXT WHIST MATCH? THEY SURE ARE FUN TO WATCH OR PLAY!

I WILL HOPE ENOUGH PEOPLE HELP WITH INFO SO YOU CAN GET A CC + PICTURES OF SCARCE VARIETIES, PEDIGREED COINS, DIE STATES ALL OF WHICH ARE INTERESTING TO EARLY US ENTHUSIASTS.

BILL SMITH SAID YOU HAVE FOUND ALL KINDS OF SCARCE VARIETIES JUST BY BEING SO ACTIVE IN PURSUIT OF THE LITTLE SISTERS. HOPEFULLY SOME OF THE LG CT COLLECTORS CAN JOIN IN THE 'FINDS'.

YOURS

DARWIN

P.S.

I LIKE YOUR IDEA OF
USING VG-VF SPECIMENS IN
PHOTOGRAPHS. THOSE SUCH AS
1804 #3 OBV 1803 #4 1803 #2
1795 #3 1793 #2
SHOULD BE PHOTOGRAPHED
FOR AS MANY VARIETIES AS
POSSIBLE AS THEIR COLOR
MAKES THEM EASY & CLEAR
SO A COLLECTOR SEES ALL
THE NECESSARY DETAIL

